FGIG Ad hoc Committee Update on field guide

Robert Slesak

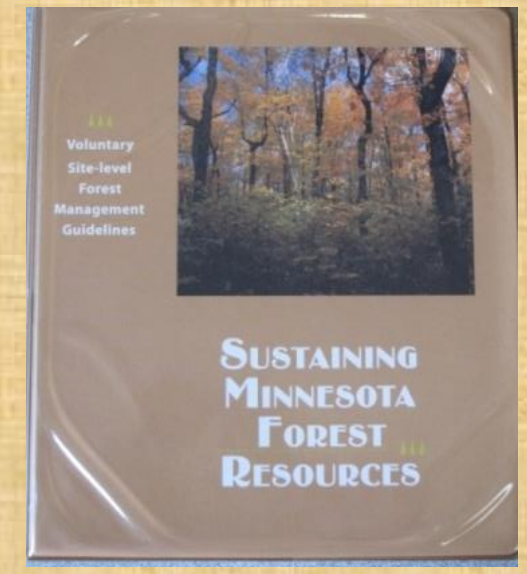
Ad hoc committee composition

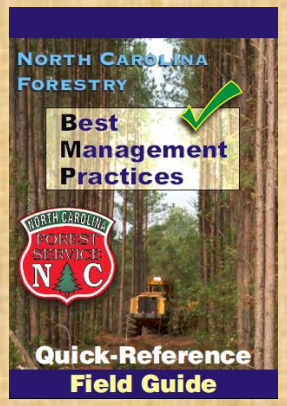
- Advisory to full MFRC
- Composed of MFRC members and stakeholders

Member	Affiliation
Wayne Brandt	MFRC (MFI/TPA)
Dave Chura	MLEP
Bruce Cox	MFRP (Clearwater Co.)
Amber Ellering	DNR
Tom McCabe	TPA
Dave Parent	MFRC (NIPF owner)
Shawn Perich	MFRC (Game species)
Susan Sulterman-Audette	MFRC (Enviro. Orgs.)
Greg VanOrslow	USFS

Overview of progress

1) Reviewed stakeholder input and monitoring trends
2) Identified key topics
3) Identified key guidelines
4) Draft sections by topic created
   - condensed language
   - graphical content / examples
5) Initial review of drafts completed





Target Relative Size. Less than 100 Pages.

Content rankings

DNR input

Planning

ETS = site inventory > Visual quality > cultural resources

Operational

Plan > landings >> road layout >>> skid trails > post harvest > fueling

Soil

Rutting >> erosion > compaction >> fertility

Water-related

RMZ's >> filter strip > crossings > seasonal ponds > WQ and wetlands

Wildlife

Leave trees >>> snags > CWD = slash

Improvement areas Monitoring

Planning – site survey

Retention of FWD amounts

Rutting

Erosion control

RMZ / leave tree options

NIPF Planning

Rankings			Part Two	
All	Loggers	MFRP	Rank which categories you use/reference in the Guidelines the most using a scale of 1 - 5 (1 being most referenced and 5 being least referenced)	
			Rank (1 - 5)	Category
2.5	2.0	3.1	_____	Planning
2.6	2.9	2.3	_____	Operational
3.1	2.8	3.5	_____	Soil
2.1	2.5	1.7	_____	Water
4.4	4.5	4.4	_____	Wildlife

Logger & MFRP input

FMG Content Evaluation

Purpose: whittle down existing guideline content to something manageable by ad hoc members

Process: D. Chura and R. Slesak evaluation

- Remove redundancy
- Remove subjective recs. / management decisions
- Include actionable items / info
- Include priorities from survey / focus groups

Recommendation made to include or not include in field guide

Key themes by topic (section)

Planning – gathering information, avoidance

Crossings – placement, rutting, structure options

RMZ's/filter strip – widths and characteristics by water body

Erosion control – when EC is needed, options for control

Infrastructure – max amount, locations

Wildlife – structural features to retain and how much

Biomass harvest – what to retain, situations to avoid removal

Sale Closure – road closure, rehabilitate as needed, etc.

Regulations – WCA, Public Waters, Spills, Noxious Weed Law

Each section color coded

Brief intro on importance

Main take-home messages of section

Wildlife

Health and diversity of wildlife depends on the availability of suitable habitat. Application of guidelines during harvesting operations can mitigate impacts to wildlife habitat and maintain healthy populations into the future.

Key points:

1) Retain live trees, snags, and dead wood to promote habitat structure after harvesting.

2) Check for the presence of ETS species and modify harvest activities as needed

As used in the guidelines, the term wildlife encompasses all forms of life that are wild including plants, animals, and microorganisms.

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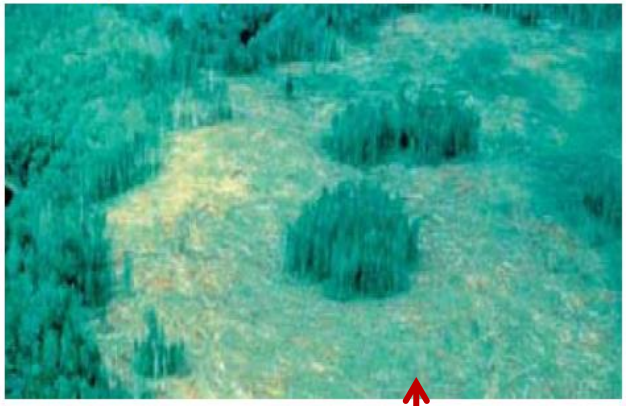
Wildlife

✓ Check ETS species inventories to see if these species may be present on site. Modify the harvest plan to promote ETS species if needed.

✓ Leave live trees during clearcut harvesting with one of the following options:

Option 1: Clumps (preferred option)

- 5% of site area in clumps > 0.25 ac. in size
- Locate clumps around sensitive areas (seasonal ponds, cultural resources, etc.)
- Clumps at sensitize areas and RMZ areas count towards 5% retention.



Wildlife

Concise presentation of guidelines content

Picture examples to Reinforce concepts

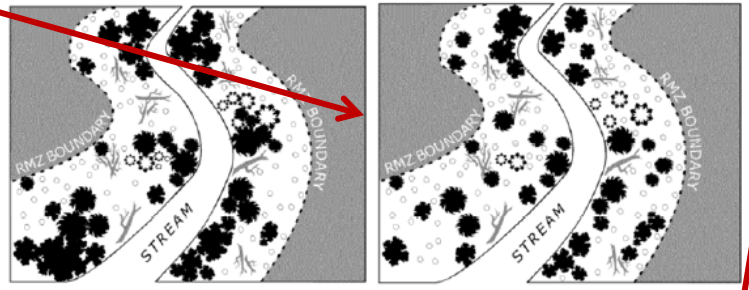
RMZ's and Filter Strips

and do not concentrate at any one location.

- Minimize compaction in all filter strips.
- Avoid placing roads, skid trails, and landings in filter strips.

✔ Apply the following RMZ guidelines to all appropriate streams, lakes, and wetlands

- Clearly mark the RMZ boundary prior to cutting
- Minimize disturbance to understory vegetation
- Keep equipment away from the water's edge
- Retain a minimum of 60 ft^2 basal area per acre distributed relatively continuously in the RMZ
- Create or retain at least 4 leave logs per acre
- Width of the RMZ varies by water body type



Relatively continuous cover can be maintained with gap-clump or well distributed tree retention as shown above.

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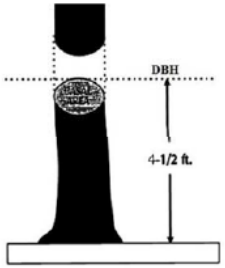
RMZ's and Filter Strips

Determining basal area in RMZ's

Basal area (BA): the cross sectional area of trees at breast height (DBH; 4.5 feet above the ground).



There is no minimum tree diameter when determining residual BA in the RMZ, but larger trees contribute more basal area as shown in the following table.

Table showing the number of trees by size class equal to 60 ft^2 of BA per acre

Tree DBH	BA per tree	Trees per ac.	Tree DBH	BA per tree	Trees per ac.
2	0.02	3667	12	0.79	102
4	0.09	917	14	1.07	75
6	0.20	407	16	1.40	57
8	0.35	229	18	1.77	45
10	0.55	147	20	2.18	37

A general rule of thumb is that crown closure of 55-60% is approximately 60 ft^2 of basal area.

Use of lists to link related content

Options for implementing

Technical information to achieve recommendations

Useful tips and resources

Introduction

Minnesota's voluntary forest management guidelines are a set of best practices designed to mitigate impacts to soil and water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, historic and cultural sites, and visual quality during activities such as timber harvesting.

This field guide is:

- Focused exclusively on timber harvesting guidelines
- Written primarily for loggers, foresters, and landowners.
- A subset of the more comprehensive Forest Management Guidebook

This field guide does not:

- Replace or supersede any content in the Forest Management Guidebook
- Comprehensively cover every guideline or best practice related to timber harvesting
- Address many other management activities covered in the full guidebook.

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Introduction

How to use this field guide

Flexibility is a central theme of guideline application to account for variable conditions and objectives. Use of alternative practices is acceptable as long as conservation of forest resources is achieved.

Multiple benefits can be achieved when applying guidelines. Be creative during guideline application to efficiently maximize resource conservation during operations.

Creative placement of leave tree clumps can provide multiple benefits to forest resources. For example, this leave tree clump was placed around a cultural resource to protect it while simultaneously providing habitat for wildlife. Placing clumps around sensitive featues maximizes resource conservation

Introduction

Next steps

- Solicit feedback from MFRC / stakeholders
- Ad hoc finalizes content recommendation (Dec. 2013)
- MFRC approval / modification (Jan 2014)
- Secure suitable graphics
- Usability testing
- Graphic design and publication